



Attorney's Docket No. 96-0588
Client's Docket No. Local

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **Paul Johnson**, a citizen of the United States of America, have invented a new and useful **Sign Post Stabilizer** of which the following is a specification:



375-201

08/711794
A

Sign Post Stabilizer

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to sign post ground anchors and more particularly pertains to a new Sign Post Stabilizer for increasing the stability of a sign post by providing multi-directional support.

Description of the Prior Art

The use of sign post ground anchors is known in the prior art. More specifically, sign post ground anchors heretofore devised and utilized are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

Known prior art sign post ground anchors include U.S. Patent 4,615,156; U.S. Patent 4,320,608; U.S. Patent 3,969,853; U.S. Patent 4,120,125; U.S. Patent 4,021,977; U.S. Patent 4,402,166; U.S. Patent 4,483,506; U.S. Patent 5,082,231; U.S. Patent D337,062; U.S. Patent D261,401; U.S. Patent D314,328; U.S. Patent D265,051; and U.S. Patent D314,701.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the aforementioned patents do not disclose a new Sign Post Stabilizer. The inventive device includes

a post sleeve positionable over a sign post and a pair of L-shaped wing members extending outward from the post sleeve below the ground surface.

In these respects, the Sign Post Stabilizer according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of increasing the stability of a sign post by providing multi-directional support.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of sign post ground anchors now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new Sign Post Stabilizer construction wherein the same can be utilized for increasing the stability of a sign post by providing multi-directional support.

The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new Sign Post Stabilizer apparatus and method which has many of the advantages of the sign post ground anchors mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new Sign Post Stabilizer which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art sign post ground anchors, either alone or in any combination thereof.

To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a post sleeve positionable over a sign post and a pair of L-shaped

wing members extending outward from the post sleeve below the ground surface.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence of the technical disclosure of the application. The abstract is neither intended to define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be limiting as to the scope of the invention in any way.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new Sign Post Stabilizer apparatus and method which has many of the advantages of the sign post ground anchors mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new Sign Post Stabilizer which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art sign post ground anchors, either alone or in any combination thereof.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new Sign Post Stabilizer which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new Sign Post Stabilizer which is of a durable and reliable construction.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new Sign Post Stabilizer which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the

consuming public, thereby making such Sign Post Stabilizer economically available to the buying public.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new Sign Post Stabilizer which provides in the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while simultaneously overcoming some of the disadvantages normally associated therewith.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new Sign Post Stabilizer for increasing the stability of a sign post by providing multi-directional support.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new Sign Post Stabilizer which includes a post sleeve positionable over a sign post and a pair of L-shaped wing members extending outward from the post sleeve below the ground surface.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new Sign Post Stabilizer that distributes the effect of torque

caused by winds thereby preventing the swaying of road-side signs which can effect the visibility of the sign.

Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a new Sign Post Stabilizer that can be used to provide stabilization in new sign installation as well as retrofitted to provide stabilization for existing signs.

These together with other objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be had to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there is illustrated preferred embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is an illustration of an installed application of a new Sign Post Stabilizer according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is an illustration of the present invention designed for use with a channel type sign post.

Figure 3 is an illustration of the present invention designed for use with a square sign post.

Figure 4 is an illustration of the present invention designed for use with a round sign post.

12

Figure 5 is an exploded illustration of the installation of the present invention on a channel type sign post.

Figure 6 is an illustration of the installation of the present invention on an existing channel type sign post.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 6 thereof, a new Sign Post Stabilizer embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

More specifically, it will be noted that the Sign Post Stabilizer 10 comprises a post sleeve 20 which is positionable over a sign post 2 having an upper section 4 which supports a sign 5 and a lower section 6 which is driven into the ground G. A pair of L-shaped wing members 30 extend horizontally outward from the post sleeve 20 to provide multi-directional stabilization of the sign post 2. The post sleeve 20 is secured to the lower section 6 of the sign post 2 such that the pair of L-shaped wing members 30 extend horizontally outward from the post sleeve 20 below the surface of the ground G. The post sleeve 20 includes a pair of aligned mounting holes 26 for securing the post sleeve 20 to the sign post 2 with a standard fastener such as a bolt 27 and a nut 28.

Each one of the pair of L-shaped wing members 30 extends horizontally outward from the post sleeve 20 at an angle of about 180 degrees to the other one. In addition, each one of the pair of L-shaped wing members 30 is bent at a wing angle A along an imaginary vertical axis X so as to form adjacent multi-planar vertical walls 31 and 32. The wing angle A is about 90 degrees so as to provide stabilization support in perpendicular vertical planes.

The post sleeve 20 is of differing cross-section so as to accommodate a sign post 2 of differing cross-section. As best illustrated in Figure 2, it can be shown that a channel-type post sleeve 21 comprises an inner channel wall 61 and an outer channel wall 62 for matingly accepting a channel-type sign post. As best illustrated in Figure 3, it can be shown that a square post sleeve 22 comprises four vertical walls 64 for matingly accepting a square sign post. As best illustrated in Figure 4, it can be shown that a round post sleeve 23 comprises a cylindrical wall 66 for matingly accepting a round sign post.

In use, the post sleeve 20 is positioned over a sign post 2. The post sleeve 20 is positioned on the lower section 6 of the sign post 2 such that the pair of L-shaped wing members 30, which extend horizontally outward from the post sleeve 20, will be located below the surface of the ground G when the lower section 6 of the sign post 2 is driven into the ground G. The post sleeve 20 is secured to the lower section 6 of the sign post 2 by a bolt 27 which first passes through one of a pair of aligned mounting holes 26 of the post sleeve 20, then passes through a hole 7 in the sign post 2, and then through the other one of the pair of aligned mounting holes 26 of the post sleeve 20. A nut 28 is then threaded onto the bolt 27 and tightened. The lower section 6 of the sign post 2 is driven into the ground G such that the pair of L-shaped wing members 30 are located below the surface of the ground G.

As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.